

SUBJECT: Ratification of the Red River Compact

COMMITTEE: Natural Resources: favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes--Craddick, Looney, Geisweidt, Massey, Patterson,
Salinas

0 nay

0 present, not voting

5 absent--M. Garcia, Jerry Clark, Close, Edwards, Ragsdale

WITNESSES: For--Fred Parkey, Red River Compact Commissioner; Doug
Caroom, Environmental Protection Division of the
Attorney General's Office

Against--Vernon B. Lewis, Jr., Cypress Valley Navigation
District and the Greater Caddo Lake Association;
Richard M. Anderson, Harrison County Judge; John
T. Echols, Greater Caddo Lake Association

DIGEST: This bill ratifies the Red River Compact between the states
of Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. It contains
provisions that allocate waters of the Red River and its
tributaries to the various states that are members of the
compact. The bill also provides for the administration of
the compact in Texas. The compact will become effective
when it is ratified by the legislatures of the four states
and is consented to by the United States Congress.

PRO: This compact is the product of 20 years of negotiations
among the four states. It apportions the waters of the
Red River fairly among the states; it should be ratified
by Texas. Its approval will let Texas know how much Red
River water it may use for further development. The
compact is needed to prevent future disagreements among
the states.

CON: This compact lets the states of Louisiana and Texas each
have 50% of the storage capacity of Caddo Lake to use as
they see fit. Caddo Lake is one of the few lakes in this
state that remains in its natural state. It deserves to
be protected in its original state and not allowed to be
used for development.

COMMENTARY: The legislatures of Louisiana and Arkansas have already
ratified the Red River Compact. Congress will vote on
consenting to the compact when Texas and Oklahoma ratify
it.

COMMENTARY:
(continued)

Each state will have two commissioners as representatives to the Red River Compact. One Texas representative will be appointed by the Governor with Senate consent; the other will be the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Water Resources. Actions taken by the Red River Compact Commission will require six votes. The compact may be amended or terminated by action of the four state legislatures.

Original jurisdiction for disputes arising under the compact will be with the United States District Courts.